



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 48

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 319

Senate, March 18, 2002

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELORS
EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 20-74s of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2002*):

4 (b) Except as provided in subsections (s) to [(w)] (x), inclusive, of
5 this section, no person shall engage in the practice of alcohol and drug
6 counseling unless licensed as a licensed alcohol and drug counselor
7 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or certified as a certified
8 alcohol and drug counselor pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

9 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 20-74s of the general statutes is
10 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
11 *October 1, 2002*):

12 (c) Except as provided in subsections (s) to [(w)] (x), inclusive, of

13 this section, no person shall engage in the private practice of alcohol
14 and drug counseling unless (1) licensed as a licensed alcohol and drug
15 counselor pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, or (2) certified as a
16 certified alcohol and drug counselor pursuant to subsection (e) of this
17 section and practicing under the supervision of a licensed alcohol and
18 drug counselor.

19 Sec. 3. Subsection (v) of section 20-74s of the general statutes is
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
21 *October 1, 2002*):

22 (v) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any alcohol
23 and drug counselor or substance abuse counselor employed by the
24 state, except that this section shall apply to alcohol and drug
25 counselors employed by the Department of Correction pursuant to
26 subsection (x) of this section.

27 Sec. 4. Section 20-74s of the general statutes is amended by adding
28 subsection (x) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

29 (NEW) (x) The provisions of this section shall apply to employees of
30 the Department of Correction as follows: (1) Any person hired by the
31 Department of Correction on or after October 1, 2002, for a position as
32 a substance abuse counselor or supervisor of substance abuse
33 counselors shall be a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor;
34 (2) any person employed by the Department of Correction prior to
35 October 1, 2002, as a substance abuse counselor or supervisor of
36 substance abuse counselors shall become licensed or certified as an
37 alcohol and drug counselor by October 1, 2007; and (3) any person
38 employed by the Department of Correction on or after October 1, 2007,
39 as a substance abuse counselor or supervisor of substance abuse
40 counselors shall be a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	Current FY \$	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
GF - Cost	Correction, Dept.	Up to 15,000	Up to 15,000	Up to 15,000
GF - Revenue Gain	Public Health, Dept.	Up to 10,000	Up to 10,000	Up to 10,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

DOC currently employs 103 correctional counselors. Approximately 20% are licensed by DPH or otherwise certified. If licensure/certification becomes a requirement of the counselor position, then the department would be responsible for reimbursing these individuals. Annual cost to DOC would range from \$13,000 - \$15,000. Subsequently, if at least half of the existing counselors were to seek licensure through DPH, then there would be an annual revenue gain of \$7,500 - \$10,000. Finally, there would be a workload increase to DPH related to processing applications.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 319

***AN ACT CONCERNING ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELORS
EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires alcohol and drug counselors (substance abuse counselors) employed by the Department of Correction (DOC) to be licensed or certified, depending on when they are hired. The law currently exempts state-employed alcohol and drug counselors from licensure and certification.

Under the bill, anyone hired by DOC on or after October 1, 2002 as a substance abuse counselor or supervisor must be a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor. Those counselors or supervisors already employed by DOC before October 1, 2002 have five years to become licensed or certified (until October 1, 2007).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2002

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0